Version with markings to show changes made

In the Specification:

Please substitute the first full paragraph on page 1 (at lines 7-10), with the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/049,021, filed March 27, 1998 (now abandoned), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application [Number] No. 08/801,720, filed February 14, 1997 (now abandoned), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/689,815, filed August 14, 1996 (now abandoned), the contents [of both] of which are fully incorporated herein by reference.

Please substitute the first full paragraph on page 25 (at lines 12-18), with the following paragraph:

It has heretofore been thought that the activity ratios of the primary to secondary polymerases should be [maintaied] maintained at 4:1 - 2000:1 for large sequence amplification (*see* U.S. Patent No. 5,436,149). It has now been discovered, however, that in the compositions of the present invention that activity ratios of the primary to secondary polymerases of 1:1, 1:2, 1:4, 1:5, 1:8, 1:10, 1:25, 1:50, 1:100, 1:250, 1:500, 1:1000 and 1:2000 may be suitable for amplification of large nucleotide sequences.

In the Claims:

(a) Claims 4 and 32 have been cancelled.

(b) New claims 48-59 are sought to be added.

(c) Claims 1-3, 30 and 31 have been amended as follows:

1. (Once amended) A [stable] composition for use in nucleic acid synthesis, nucleic acid amplification, sequencing or restriction digestion, said composition comprising a mixture of reagents at working concentrations, wherein said reagents are at least one thermostable enzyme and at least one buffer salt, and wherein said composition has no nucleic acid molecules.

2. (Once amended) A [stable] composition for nucleic acid amplification comprising a mixture of reagents at working concentrations, wherein said reagents are at least one thermostable DNA polymerase, at least one buffer salt and at least one deoxynucleoside triphosphate, and wherein said composition has no nucleic acid molecules.

3. (Once amended) A [stable] composition for nucleic acid sequencing comprising a mixture of reagents at working concentrations, wherein said reagents are at least one thermostable DNA polymerase, at least one deoxynucleoside triphosphate, at least one dideoxynucleoside triphosphate and at least one buffer salt, and wherein said composition has no nucleic acid molecules.

30. (Once amended) A nucleic acid amplification kit comprising one or more containers, wherein a first container contains a [stable] composition comprising a mixture of reagents at working concentrations, wherein said reagents are at least one thermostable DNA polymerase, at least one buffer salt, and at least one deoxynucleoside triphosphate, and wherein said composition has no nucleic acid molecules.

31. (Once amended) A nucleic acid sequencing kit comprising one or more containers, wherein a first container contains a [stable] composition comprising a mixture of reagents at working concentrations, wherein said reagents are at least one thermostable DNA polymerase, at least one buffer salt, at least one deoxynucleoside triphosphate and at least one dideoxynucleoside triphosphate, and wherein said composition has no nucleic acid molecules.